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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

14 FEBRUARY 2018

BREAKING NEWS

(U) Maryland – Authorities Respond to Shooting at NSA Headquarters

(U) Fort Meade – Authorities are responding to a shooting incident that occurred at a vehicle gate entrance to the Fort Meade facility, where a black SUV appears to have crashed into concrete barriers. The situation is under control and there is no ongoing security or safety threat, according to the NSA. At least one person has reportedly been injured in the incident.

SOURCE: 14 February 2018, CNN, NBC News

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Chico – Black Tar Heroin May be Linked to Botulism Case

(U) The Butte County Public Health Department is warning that locally available black tar heroin may be contaminated, after a resident who injected the drug developed wound botulism—a bacterial infection that creates a toxin that acts on the nervous system—and remains hospitalized on a respirator. Black tar heroin has been linked to past outbreaks of the disease, which—if untreated—can be fatal.

SOURCE: 13 February 2018, The Chicoer

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Minnesota - More Marijuana Going into Minnesota from States Where it is Legalized

(U) Minneapolis – In 2017, Minnesota state troopers seized more than 4,200 pounds of marijuana — more than the amount seized in the past five years combined. Most of the marijuana is coming from states where recreational use is legal—such as California, Colorado, and Oregon—according to law enforcement.

SOURCE: 13 February 2018, WCCO News

(U) New York – Members of Narcotics Ring Indicted in 'Operation Yellow Brick Road'

(U) Hudson Valley – The NY State Attorney General announced yesterday a 172-count indictment charging 16 members of a large, violent narcotics trafficking ring operating in the Hudson Valley, for selling heroin and cocaine in Newburgh and elsewhere in Orange County, New York. In addition to marijuana, meth, firearms, and cash, officers seized bulk amounts of cocaine and heroin, with hundreds of doses of heroin in individual glassines—some marked with brand names such as "Focus," "Shine," and "X-men." If convicted, each suspect faces 25 years in prison.

SOURCE: 13 February 2018, <u>Hudson Valley News Network</u>

(U) Pennsylvania – Police Operation Seizes \$2.6 Million in Drugs

(U) Philadelphia – Authorities announced yesterday that a major drug bust in the Feltonville area resulted in the seizure of \$2.6 million worth of heroin and the powerful synthetic opioid fentanyl. The amount of drugs seized could have potentially created 250,000 individual doses of heroin and fentanyl, according to law enforcement. Philadelphia officials say the number of fatal opioid-related overdoses last year is expected to reach 1,200, one-third more than the previous year.

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SOURCE: 13 February 2018, ABC News

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) South Korea – Cyberattacks on Olympics Could Have Come from Russia and North Korea

(U) Pyeongchang – Cybersecurity experts are confirming that a computer malware attack dubbed "Olympic Destroyer" hit select networks and Wi-Fi systems at the Winter Games in Pyeongchang on 9 February but stopped short at confirming if Russia or North Korea are responsible. Users with a @pyeongchang2018.com email address were targeted in the attack—which experts state resemble "NotPetya" and "BadRabbit" malware attacks against Ukraine conducted by Russian hackers. SOURCE: 13 February 2018, NPR

(U) Sweden – Stockholm Truck Attack Suspect Pleads Guilty to Terrorism

(U) Stockholm – Rakhmat A, 39, has pleaded guilty to charges of terrorism for a truck attack that killed five people in Stockholm last year. As his trial began, his defense lawyer told the court the motive for the attack "was to instigate fear and to get Sweden to end its participation in the coalition against ISIS. In last year's attack, Rakhmat had stolen a beer truck during a delivery then rammed into the Ahlens department store on a major pedestrianized shopping area in the center of the city, resulting in five deaths and multiple injuries.

SOURCE: 13 February 2018, Deutsche Welle

(U) United Kingdom – UK Creates Machine Learning Algorithm to Detect ISIS Propaganda

(U) London – The UK government has funded the creation of a machine learning algorithm that can be used to detect ISIS propaganda videos online. The tool will be offered to smaller video platforms and cloud storage sites like Vimeo and pCloud to vet their content. The algorithm can detect 94 percent of ISIS propaganda with 99.99 percent accuracy. The tool will not, however, be used by big tech companies—like YouTube and Facebook—which are developing their own algorithms.

SOURCE: 13 February 2018, The Verge

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – US Border Patrol (CBP) Seized Massive Amount of Marijuana

(U) Rio Grande Valley – In the first full week of February, CBP Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector says they have seized nearly four tons of marijuana—with an estimated street value of nearly \$6 million—leading the nation in marijuana seizures. According to a CBP official, the RGV Sector is the most active and volatile area along the Southwest border (SWB) for smuggling and trafficking of migrants and illegal drugs. The official also stated that transnational criminal organizations continue to exploit vulnerabilities in the western corridor of the SWB.

SOURCE: 13 February 2018, KRISTV

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.

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